



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



580.07 DUTY TO INTERCEDE 01-10-23

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for peace officers who observe or become aware of another peace officer's use of excessive force.

POLICY

Peace officers of the Sacramento Police Department are entrusted with extraordinary authority. Peace officers must exercise this authority in a fair and respectful manner and in compliance with the law and Department policy. The community and the Police Department expect that peace officers will not use force which is excessive, and that peace officers will intercede to stop the use of excessive force by another peace officer. Failure to intercede can harm partnerships with the community, erode trust, and diminish police legitimacy.

PROCEDURE

A. DEFINITIONS

1. INTERCEDE – The act of attempting to prevent or stop excessive force by another peace officer. Interceding may be verbal or physical.
2. FEASIBLE - Feasible means reasonably capable of being done or carried out under the circumstances to successfully achieve the lawful objective without increasing risk to the officer or another person.

B. GENERAL

1. DUTY TO INTERCEDE - Regardless of tenure or rank, any peace officer who is present and observes another peace officer use any prohibited force or force which is clearly beyond that which is necessary (including applying force when it is no longer required), shall attempt to safely intercede by verbal and/or physical means, when feasible. The standard for evaluating if force is necessary shall be that of an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, taking into account the possibility that other officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by a subject. Peace officers who fail to intercede may be subject to discipline for failure to do so. This includes the eligibility to train others as outlined in GO 260.02.
2. PEACE OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES
 - a. Peace officers shall assess the situation and communicate with the involved peace officers prior to interceding.
 - b. Peace officers shall take an active approach to intercede to stop any inappropriate use of force by another peace officer.
 - i. Peace officers should first attempt to verbally intervene.
 - ii. If verbal interventions are not sufficient to stop the act, when feasible, peace officers on scene shall physically intervene to stop the inappropriate use of force.
 - c. If aid is required by any individual, all employees shall ensure that medical attention has been rendered in accordance with GO 522.02 – Emergency Care.
 - d. Employees shall report potential misconduct or unreasonable force to a supervisor and/or Internal Affairs (IA) as soon as practical.
 - e. Supervisors shall immediately notify the watch commander regarding an incident that required intervention.